



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

April 4, 2000

H.R. 371

Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 1999

As ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on March 30, 2000

CBO estimates that implementing this legislation would cost less than \$500,000 annually in appropriated funds over the next two years. The bill also would affect direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply, but we estimate that the net effects would be less than \$500,000 annually. H.R. 371 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not have a significant effect on state budgets. The bill would have no impact on local or tribal governments.

H.R. 371 would relax the naturalization requirements relating to English language proficiency and knowledge of civics for certain Laotians and their spouses. The bill would limit those eligible to apply under these relaxed standards to no more than 45,000 people who would have to apply for citizenship within 18 months of the bill's enactment. The naturalization fee is \$225, so enacting H.R. 371 could increase fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) by up to \$10 million, mostly in fiscal year 2001. We expect that the INS would spend the fees (without further appropriation), mostly in the year in which they are collected, so enacting H.R. 371 would result in a net budgetary impact of less than \$500,000 in any year.

This legislation would require the INS to consult with the Department of Defense (DoD) regarding the military service of each applicant for naturalization under the bill's provisions. We expect that DoD would spend less than \$500,000 annually on consultation.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.